

**Amendments to the Claims:**

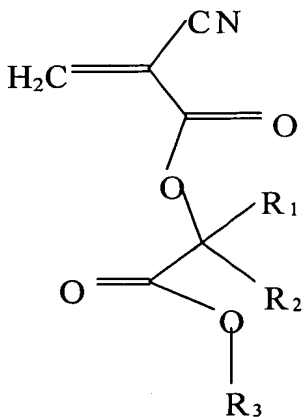
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A biocompatible adhesive composition, comprising:  
 a first monomer species; and  
 a second monomer species different from said first monomer species,  
 wherein at least said first monomer species is absorbable, and  
 an absorption rate of said first monomer species is different from an absorption rate of said second monomer species,

wherein said first monomer species comprises an alkyl ester cyanoacrylate.

2. (Canceled)

B1 3. (Currently Amended) The biocompatible adhesive composition of ~~claim 2,~~  
claim 1, wherein said alkyl ester cyanoacrylate has the formula

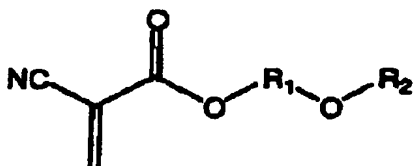


wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently H, a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group, or are combined together in a cyclic alkyl group, and  $R_3$  is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group.

4. (Currently Amended) The biocompatible adhesive composition of ~~claim 2,~~  
claim 1, wherein said alkyl ester cyanoacrylate is selected from the group consisting of butyl lactoyl cyanoacrylate, butyl glycoloyl cyanoacrylate, isopropyl glycoloyl cyanoacrylate, ethyl lactoyl cyanoacrylate, and ethyl glycoloyl cyanoacrylate.

5. (Currently Amended) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein said ~~first~~ second monomer species comprises an alkyl ether cyanoacrylate.

6. (Original) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 5, wherein said alkyl ether cyanoacrylate has the formula



where  $R_1$  is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl, and  $R_2$  is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group.

7. (Original) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 6, wherein said alkyl ether cyanoacrylate is selected from the group consisting of isopropoxy ethyl cyanoacrylate and methoxy butyl cyanoacrylate.

8. (Original) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein said second monomer species comprises a cyanoacrylate other than an alkyl ester cyanoacrylate and an alkyl ether cyanoacrylate.

9. (Original) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 8, wherein said second monomer species is an alkyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate, having an alkyl group of from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms.

10. (Original) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 8, wherein said second monomer species is selected from the group consisting of octyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate, hexyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate, butyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate and ethyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate.

11. (Original) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of said first monomer species to said second monomer species is from about 25:75 to about 75:25.

12. (Original) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein said first monomer species comprises an alkyl ester cyanoacrylate and said second monomer species comprises an alkyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate.

13. (Original) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein said first monomer species comprises butyl lactoyl cyanoacrylate and said second monomer species comprises octyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate.

14. (Original) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of anionic stabilizing agents, free radical stabilizing agents, colorants, and plasticizers.

15. (Original) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein said composition comprises:

B1 a monomer blend comprising from about 25 to about 40 parts by weight butyl lactoyl cyanoacrylate and from about 60 to about 75 parts by weight octyl cyanoacrylate (OCA);  
at least one anionic stabilizer; and  
at least one radical stabilizer.

16. (Original) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 15, wherein said at least one anionic stabilizer comprises about 25 to about 100 ppm of sulfuric acid and from about 1 to about 50 ppm sulfur dioxide, and said at least one radical stabilizer comprises from about 100 to about 2000 ppm hydroquinone, from about 10 to about 200 ppm p-methoxyphenol, and from about 100 to about 10,000 ppm butylated hydroxyanisole.

17. (Original) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein said first and second monomer species have different absorption rates, such that an absorption rate of a faster absorbing monomer species is at least 10% faster than an absorption rate of a slower absorbing monomer species.

18. (Original) A method of treating living tissue, comprising:

applying to living tissue a biocompatible adhesive composition comprising at least one alkyl ester cyanoacrylate monomer and a polymerization initiator or accelerator, wherein said polymerization initiator or accelerator is a purified benzalkonium chloride.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein two or more polymerization initiators or accelerators are applied to said living tissue.

20. (Original) A method of treating living tissue, comprising:

applying to living tissue a biocompatible adhesive composition comprising:

at least one alkyl ester cyanoacrylate monomer;

a second monomer species having an absorption rate different from an absorption rate of said at least one alkyl ester cyanoacrylate monomer; and

a polymerization initiator or accelerator, wherein said polymerization initiator or accelerator is a quaternary amine.

B<sub>1</sub> 21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein two or more polymerization initiators or accelerators are applied to said living tissue.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said second monomer species comprises a cyanoacrylate other than an alkyl ester cyanoacrylate and an alkyl ether cyanoacrylate.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said second monomer species is an alkyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate, having an alkyl group of from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said second monomer species is selected from the group consisting of octyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate, hexyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate, butyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate and ethyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate.

25. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein a weight ratio of said at least one alkyl ester cyanoacrylate monomer to said second monomer species is from about 25:75 to about 75:25.

26. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said at least one alkyl ester cyanoacrylate monomer comprises butyl lactoyl cyanoacrylate and said second monomer species comprises octyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate.

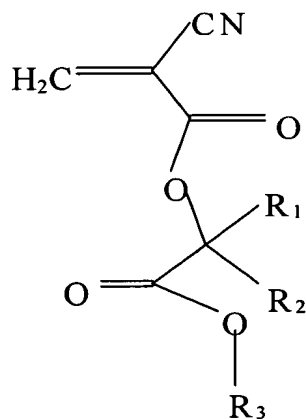
27. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said adhesive composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of anionic stabilizing agents, free radical stabilizing agents, colorants, and plasticizers.

28-45. (Canceled)

46. (Original) A method of treating living tissue, comprising:  
applying to internal living tissue in a living organism the biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 1.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 47~~, claim 46, wherein said alkyl ester cyanoacrylate has the formula



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently H, a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group, or are combined together in a cyclic alkyl group, and  $R_3$  is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 47~~, claim 46, wherein said alkyl ester cyanoacrylate is selected from the group consisting of butyl lactoyl cyanoacrylate, butyl glycoloyl cyanoacrylate, isopropyl glycoloyl cyanoacrylate, ethyl lactoyl cyanoacrylate, and ethyl glycoloyl cyanoacrylate.

50. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein said second monomer species comprises a cyanoacrylate other than an alkyl ester cyanoacrylate and an alkyl ether cyanoacrylate.

51. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein said second monomer species is an alkyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate, having an alkyl group of from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms.

52. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein said second monomer species is selected from the group consisting of octyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate, hexyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate, butyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate and ethyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate.

53. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein a weight ratio of said first monomer species to said second monomer species is from about 25:75 to about 75:25.

54. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein said first monomer species comprises an alkyl ester cyanoacrylate and said second monomer species comprises an alkyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate.

55. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein said first monomer species comprises butyl lactoyl cyanoacrylate and said second monomer species comprises octyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate.

56. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein said composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of anionic stabilizing agents, free radical stabilizing agents, colorants, and plasticizers.

57. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein said polymerization initiator or accelerator is a quaternary amine.

58. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein said polymerization initiator or accelerator is selected from the group consisting of domiphen bromide and benzyldimethylhexadecylammonium chloride.

59. (Original) A biocompatible adhesive composition, comprising:

at least one alkyl ester cyanoacrylate monomer;  
a second monomer species having an absorption rate different from an  
absorption rate of said at least one alkyl ester cyanoacrylate monomer; and  
a polymerization initiator or accelerator, wherein said polymerization initiator or  
accelerator is a quaternary amine.

60. (Original) The composition of claim 59, further comprising a second different  
polymerization initiator or accelerator.

61. (Original) The composition of claim 60, wherein said second monomer  
species comprises a cyanoacrylate other than an alkyl ester cyanoacrylate and an alkyl ether  
cyanoacrylate.

B1 62. (Original) The composition of claim 61, wherein said second monomer  
species is an alkyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate, having an alkyl group of from about 2 to about 12 carbon  
atoms.

63. (Original) The composition of claim 61, wherein said second monomer  
species is selected from the group consisting of octyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate, hexyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate,  
butyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate and ethyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate.

64. (Original) The composition of claim 60, wherein a weight ratio of said at least  
one alkyl ester cyanoacrylate monomer to said second monomer species is from about 25:75  
to about 75:25.

65. (Original) The composition of claim 60, wherein said at least one alkyl ester  
cyanoacrylate monomer comprises butyl lactoyl cyanoacrylate and said second monomer  
species comprises octyl  $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate.

66. (Original) The composition of claim 60, wherein said adhesive composition  
further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of anionic  
stabilizing agents, free radical stabilizing agents, colorants, and plasticizers.

67. (Original) A polymerized film formed by curing the composition of claim 59.

68. (Previously Presented) A polymerized film formed by curing the composition of claim 1.

69. (Previously Presented) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein said adhesive composition is a polymerizable adhesive composition.

70. (Previously Presented) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein said adhesive composition is in a monomeric form.

B1 71. (Previously Presented) The biocompatible adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein said first monomer species and said second monomer species are present in an amount of at least 65 percent by weight of the biocompatible adhesive composition.

72. (Canceled)

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